(b) The Chairman and Members of the BIFR are appointed in accordance with the provisions of Sub-section 3 of Section 4 of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(c) Eight persons who were Members of Indian Administrative Service have been appointed (presently and formerly) as Chairman/Members of BIFR at different times.

(d) The total number of references registered with BIFR since its inception and their disposal as on 31st October, 1996 are as under :

	Public Sector	Private Sector	Total
References registered	143	1688	1831
References disposed off	93	1379	1472

Promotion of Traditional Industries

2135. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to promote traditional industries of Kerala including coir and cashewnut;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The Government have been implementing several schemes for promoting traditional industries of Kerala including Coir and Cashewnut. The existing plan schemes aim at promotion of R & D, modernisation, elimination of drudgery and pollution, expansion of domestic market and export for the promotion and development of Coir Industry in the country. Assistance is also being provided to the State for implementation of the Integrated Coir Development Projects through the Cooperatives.

As regards development of Cashewnut, Ministry of Agriculture are implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Cashewnut in Kerala with an outlay of Rs. 5.91 crores in the VIII Five Year Plan. This schemes includes new plantation development with clones of high yielding varieties, replanting old, senile and uneconomical Cashew gardens with clones of quality planting materials, adoption of intensive pest control measures for Cashew production, adoption of comprehensive production technologies for Cashew, generation of clones and establishment or regional nurseries, farmers training programme on Cashew production technology and development of model clonal garden.

(c) Does not arise.

Trade Relation with Australia

2136. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Australia has expressed its keenness to expand trade relation with India; and

(b) if so, the details of areas identified for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Australia has shown interest in promoting exports in agri-business, telecommunications, automotive components, mining, coal, environmental management, surface transport and energy. The Joint Business Council held on 4th November, 1996 has identified the following commodities for export promotion from India to Australia :

> Plantation, agricultural, marine and food products; chemicals and related products; leather and leather goods, footwear and travel goods; textiles, clothing and made-ups; engineering goods and manufactures and gems and jewellery.

Balance Sheets of Public Sector Undertakings

2137. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued notices to the Public Sector Undertakings to submit their balance sheets;

(b) the number of Public Sector Undertakings have been prosecuted so far for delaying finalisation and publication of balance sheets; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) In terms of Section 220 of the Companies Act, 1956, every company is required to file its Balance Sheet and its Profit and Loss Account with the concerned Registrar of Companies within the time-limit specified therein. These provisions equally apply to Public Sector Undertakings which have been incorporated as Companies (i.e. as Government Companies) under the Companies Act.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The need for timely finalisation of accounts and compliance of statutory provisions by the Government companies has been impressed upon the concerned administrative authorities regularly in respect of such companies which are under their administrative control.